

Affordability Committee – Meeting Notes – October 16, 2007

Present: Chair – Pat Hanberry, Pat Rosensteel, Maria Shuck, Guy Djoken, Kathryn Van Curen, Carol Antoniewicz

Notes from September 18 were approved. Introduction of new member, Kathryn Van Curen from Office of Children and Families.

Executive Committee Report:

Pat reported that there was an error in the final report. Dr. Brookmyer is reviewing it carefully to ensure that there are no others; in the meantime, the report is no longer on the web site. The Needs Assessment committee will review the report to determine where follow-up should be done; the other three Committees were asked to do the same thing.

Finalize Committee Objectives:

Sue Hecht and Rick Weldon have agreed to present at the December Coalition meeting on legislative process. The FY2008 goals were accepted as presented.

Children's Health Insurance (SCHIP) update: The House will vote on Oct. 18. It appears unlikely they will override the President's veto. Carol outlined advocates' key objective: expand coverage to include 4 million children currently eligible [under 200% poverty] but not receiving benefits due to lack of funds. Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates this will require \$35B. The president proposed \$5B. Despite polls showing a huge majority of voters support SCHIP and strong support from Senate Republicans Hatch and Grassley, Congressman Bartlett has said he will not vote for it. Unfortunately the administration has perpetuated a lot of misinformation about the bill. It is not socialized medicine, does not cover adults (except pregnant women), does not cover families making \$80,000 unless CMS/Fed. Gov't gives approval.

Actions: 1) **Pat** will email info from Georgetown Center for Children and Families (CCF). 2) **Guy and Carol** circulated letters of support drafted by NAACP, for individual signatures, to be faxed to Bartlett. 3) **We all** should write letters to the editor on this topic.

Health Needs Assessment will be on Health Dept. website once Dr. Brookmyer accepts the final correction(s). www.co.frederick.md.us > community health coalitions. The data can be manipulated using the version at www.prceasyview.org. We reviewed pg. 173-179, health coverage. The survey indicates 92.4% of county residents have health coverage, either private or government-sponsored. This seems high. However, among persons below 200% of poverty, 35% report having no insurance. We need to remember that 'numbers' are actually people. Actions: **Pat H.** will dig a little deeper into original data and try to find out how many folks from various demographic groups were interviewed. We should check with Community Action Agency for a list of programs that provide services to the uninsured.

November 6 meeting with Annapolis Delegation at FCC: Arranged by Pat R. for 1:30-2:00 pm in the conference center. Renee has agreed to write up the story of her son's need for coverage. Other possible voices could be: Dave Liddle – Mission of Mercy,

George Waxter – dental, Dr. Menocal – impact of no insurance, Carol – on need for health expansion. Maryland Medicaid only covers parents with children under 18 and disabled adults and only if they are under 39% poverty, approx. \$400/month income. It would be good to have uninsured folks to come and share their stories. It will be important to highlight need for the \$1 tobacco tax. *Action:* **Pat R.** will email folks to coordinate talking points.

There was a discussion of concerns regarding health needs among immigrant residents, worry about anti-immigrant sentiment stirred up by recent proposals.

Next meeting: November 20.